Power Economy

371

Available as sources of energy are above all the known energy materials such as coal, oil, peat, and wood, and, in second rank, water power. Coal has a prominent position in terms of its share in the present production of energy. Oil claims second place. Peat and wood play a very decisive role only in certain places, while a beginning has been made only in the last few years in the exploitation of water power. More exact figures on the economic contribution of the various sources of energy cannot be made since no publications are available on this subject. This applies also to the production of electrical energy, which is to be treated next, and about which only a generalized picture also can be drawn.

377

In its numerous coal deposits, which are scattered widely over the land, Transbaykal has the best conditions for supplying itself regionally both for industrial purposes and also for the production of electrical energy. Here, too, the first modern beginnings were made in moving the production of electrical energy into the coal areas themselves and transporting the current instead of the coal to the centers of consumption. The steam power plant of Tomcha must be named here in first place: it is based on the coal of Lake Gusinoye and was built a few years ago in the vicinity of the railroad line from Ulan-Ude to Naushki. It has the task of supplying electricity to the wolfram mines, and it is assumed than an overland line leads into the regions of the upper Dzhida. The coal deposits of Kholbon also have an older power station (around 10,000 kilowatts), which also supplies both the city of Nerchinsk (over 25 kilometers away) and the gold works of Darasun (60 kilometers away) and of Baley (50 kilometers away). Power stations have also been erected in the coal deposits of Bukachacha (around 9,000 kilowatts) and of Kharamangutsk (around 3,000 kilowatts); these power stations, however, only serve the mining installations on the spot. All the larger cities and also the more important localities on the railroad line have their own heat power stations; coal must be hauled to these stations over a more or less long distance. For Ulan-Ude and Chita, which have the largest installations, there is the peculiar picture, arising out of the historical development, that both cities have several power stations where the capacity of the plant-owned power stations, which were built later, exceeds that of the older power stations which supply the cities' needs. In Ulan-Ude, for example, the power station of the locomotive factory (27,000 kilowatts) exceeds the city power station by several fold in

with islands.

361 The main locality on the west coast is Bol'sheretsk. It is the
228 center of the crab and salmon fishing industry. All the catches of the numerous fish collection points flow in here for processing. The main fishing regions stretch from Cape Subchatyy to the southern tip of the peninsula, i.e., more in the southern half of the coast. Further to the north lies Palana, the cultural center of the Koryak.

371 In the future development of Kamchatka, exploitation of the natural resources will play an important role. The supplies of coal and oil have already been treated in detail in another place, and thus only a mention may be sufficient here. Also water power rich in energy is available here. Up until now only small water-power stations for supplying agriculture have existed, although there are also vast possibilities here. Thus Kamchatka shows a relatively favorable picture of its economic development to date with further good prospects for the future.

Commander Islands

133 Approximately 250 kilometers east of Kamchatka there arise alone from the sea the Commander Islands. They are separated from the peninsula by a sea channel which is 1,000 meters deep, while toward the Aleutians the floor of the sea sinks down deeper. The island group, which covers 2,150 square kilometers, consists of two large, inhabited islands, Bering Island and Copper Island, and of two small islands, on which only large numbers of sea parrots and aras make their home. The islands are of volcanic origin and consist principally of andesite tuff and basalt.

Bering Island forms in the north a flat, low-lying moss steppe, while a wild highland traverses the southern part. This highland pro-
132 jects up to 670 meters. The damp, cold, constantly foggy and rainy weather (coldest month -4°, July +11°, annual rainfall 500 millimeters) and heavy storms permit only a crippled growth of mountain ash and
137 willows to come up. The islands lie at the latitude of Moscow. All the more luxuriant is the growth of grass; the Hercules types, which grow to more than the height of a man, are especially striking.

133 Copper Island received its name from the copper enclosed in the volcanic stone. It is formed from a mountain ridge, which is divided into two parts by a land narrows and which descends steeply to the sea. The mountain ridge is broken up by several cross valleys.